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**Title**

2-arachidonoyl glycerol potently induces cholecystokinin secretion in murine enteroendocrine STC-1 cells via cannabinoid receptor CB1

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**Abbreviated title**

2-arachidonoyl glycerol stimulates cholecystokinin secretion via CB1

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**Keywords**

2-monoacylglycerol, Cholecystokinin, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol, Cannabinoid receptor 1

1 **Abstract**

2 Cholecystokinin (CCK) is a peptide hormone secreted from enteroendocrine  
3 cells and regulates the exocrine pancreas, gastric motility, and appetite. Dietary  
4 triacylglycerols (TG) are hydrolyzed to fatty acids (FA) and 2-monoacylglycerols (2-  
5 MAG) in the small intestine. Although it is well known that FA stimulate CCK secretion,  
6 whether 2-MAG have the CCK-releasing activity remains unclear. We examined the  
7 CCK-releasing activity of four commercially available 2-MAG in a murine CCK-  
8 producing cell line, STC-1, and the molecular mechanism underlying 2-MAG-induced  
9 CCK secretion. CCK released from the cells was measured using ELISA. Among four 2-  
10 MAG (2-palmitoyl, 2-oleoyl, 2-linoleoyl, and 2-arachidonoyl monoacylglycerols)  
11 examined, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol (2-AG) potently stimulated CCK secretion in a dose-  
12 dependent manner. Structurally related compounds, such as 2-arachidonoyl glycerol ether  
13 and 1-arachidonoyl glycerol, did not stimulate CCK secretion. Both arachidonic acid and  
14 2-AG stimulated CCK secretion at 100  $\mu$ M, but only 2-AG did at 50  $\mu$ M. 2-AG-induced  
15 CCK secretion, but arachidonic acid-induced CCK secretion was attenuated by treatment  
16 with a cannabinoid receptor 1 (CB1) antagonist. These results indicate that a specific 2-  
17 MAG, 2-AG, directly stimulates CCK secretion via CB1.

18 **Abbreviations**

19	1-AG	1-arachidonoyl glycerol
20	2-AG	2-arachidonoyl glycerol
21	2-AG ether	2-arachidonoyl glycerol ether
22	2-LG	2-linoleoyl glycerol
23	2-MAG	2-monoacylglycerol(s)
24	2-OG	2-oleoyl glycerol
25	2-PG	2-palmitoyl glycerol
26	16:0	palmitic acid
27	18:1n-9	oleic acid
28	18:2n-6	linoleic acid
29	18:3n-3	$\alpha$ -linolenic acid
30	20:4n-6	arachidonic acid
31	CB1	cannabinoid receptor 1
32	CCK	cholecystokinin
33	FA	fatty acid(s)
34	FFA	free fatty acid(s)
35	GLP-1	glucagon-like peptide-1
36	GPR120	G-protein coupled receptor 120
37	LDH	lactate dehydrogenase
38	MAGL	monoacylglycerol lipase
39	NEFA	nonesterified fatty acid(s)
40	TG	triacylglycerol(s)

## 41 **Introduction**

42           The gastrointestinal endocrine cells scattered along the digestive tract accurately  
43 capture the chemical information of nutrients and non-nutrients; they release gut  
44 hormones into the body. Gut hormones mediate nutrient and non-nutrient signals to  
45 regulate gastrointestinal functions, including secretion, motility, digestion, and absorption.  
46 Cholecystokinin (CCK) is a gut hormone produced by enteroendocrine ‘I cells’ located  
47 in the upper small intestine (Dockray 2012; Rehfeld 2000). CCK regulates gallbladder  
48 contraction, pancreatic enzyme secretion, gastric emptying, and food intake (Liddle 1997).

49           Dietary lipid-derived triacylglycerols (TG) are hydrolyzed to fatty acids (FA)  
50 and 2-monoacylglycerols (2-MAG) in the small intestine. FA with chain lengths of more  
51 than 12 carbons strongly stimulate CCK secretion (Feltrin *et al.* 2004; Hira *et al.* 2004;  
52 McLaughlin *et al.* 1999; McLaughlin *et al.* 1998; Sidhu *et al.* 2000). However, the effect  
53 of 2-MAG on CCK secretion remains unclear.

54           2-oleoyl glycerol (2-OG), a 2-MAG, and oleoylethanolamide, an ethanolamide  
55 derived from oleic acid, stimulate the secretion of another gut hormone, glucagon-like  
56 peptide-1 (GLP-1) via GPR119 (Lauffer *et al.* 2009; Hansen *et al.* 2011; Hansen *et al.*  
57 2012). GPR119 is one of the GPCRs expressed in enteroendocrine cells, such as I and L  
58 cells, in the human and rodent intestinal tissue (Chu *et al.* 2008; Lauffer *et al.* 2009;  
59 Sykaras *et al.* 2012), and the murine enteroendocrine cell lines, STC-1 and GLUTag (Chu  
60 *et al.* 2008). However, it is unclear whether GPR119 is involved in other sensing  
61 mechanisms of 2-MAG and/or CCK secretion.

62           Some studies have examined the effects of 2-MAG on food intake. Jejunal  
63 administration of 2-OG reduced food intake in rats without causing diarrhea (Okuma *et*  
64 *al.* 2016). Inhibition or deficiency of monoacylglycerol acyltransferase 2, which catalyzes

65 the conversion of 2-MAG to diacylglycerol, reduced food intake in mice fed a high-fat  
66 diet (Nelson *et al.* 2014; Okuma *et al.* 2015). Furthermore, overexpression of  
67 monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL) in mice, which specifically hydrolyzes 2-MAG into  
68 FFA and glycerol in the small intestine, induced hyperphagia compared to normal mice  
69 (Chon *et al.* 2012). These results suggest that 2-MAG is involved in appetite suppression,  
70 possibly through CCK and/or GLP-1.

71 In the present study, we examined whether 2-MAG could induce CCK secretion  
72 in CCK-producing STC-1 cells. CCK secretion was examined in response to four  
73 different commercially available 2-MAG, and the cellular mechanism was investigated.

74

## 75 **Materials and Methods**

### 76 *Materials*

77 Cell culture consumables (Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium [DMEM] and  
78 fetal bovine serum [FBS]) were purchased from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA, USA). HEPES  
79 and FA were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). 2-MAG, 2-arachidonoyl  
80 glycerol ether (2-AG ether), 1-arachidonoyl glycerol (1-AG), and a G-protein coupled  
81 receptor 120 (GPR120) antagonist, AH7614, were purchased from Cayman Chemical  
82 (Ann Arbor, MI, USA). Glycerol was purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry (Tokyo,  
83 Japan). A selective CB1 antagonist, SR141716A, was purchased from Tocris Bioscience  
84 (Ellisville, MO, USA). Unless otherwise specified, all other reagents were purchased  
85 from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation (Osaka, Japan).

86

### 87 *Cell culture*

88 STC-1 cells (a gift from D. Hanahan, University of California, San Francisco,

89 CA, USA) were grown in DMEM (Invitrogen, Cat. No. 12100-038) supplemented with  
90 10% FBS, 50 IU/mL penicillin, and 500 µg/mL streptomycin in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub>  
91 atmosphere at 37°C. Cells were routinely subcultured by trypsinization upon reaching 80-  
92 90% confluence. Cells at passage numbers 30-50 were used for the experiments.

93

#### 94 *CCK secretion study in STC-1 cells*

95 STC-1 cells were seeded in 48-well culture plates at a density of  $1.5 \times 10^5$   
96 cells/well and grown for 2-3 days until reaching 80-90% confluency. Cells were washed  
97 twice with HEPES buffer to remove the culture medium and then exposed to the test  
98 agents dissolved in HEPES buffer containing 0.1 or 0.2% ethanol (to prepare  
99 monoacylglycerol and FA solutions) for 60 min at 37°C. The HEPES buffer (pH 7.4) had  
100 the following composition: 140 mM NaCl, 4.5 mM KCl, 20 mM HEPES, 1.2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>,  
101 1.2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 10 mM D-glucose. Following incubation, the supernatants were  
102 collected into 1.5 mL tubes and centrifuged at  $800 \times g$  for 5 min at 4°C to remove the  
103 remaining cells. The supernatants were then stored at -30°C until CCK concentration was  
104 measured using a commercially available enzyme immunoassay (EIA) kit (Phoenix  
105 Pharmaceuticals Inc., Belmont, CA, USA). The primary antiserum provided in this kit  
106 cross-reacts (100%) with sulfated and non-sulfated CCK (26-33), CCK-33 (porcine),  
107 caerulein, gastrin-1 (human), and big gastrin-1 (human). The antiserum also cross-reacts  
108 (12.6%) with CCK (30-33); however, it shows 0% cross-reaction with pancreatic  
109 polypeptide (human) and vasoactive intestinal peptide (including human, porcine, and  
110 rat). Because STC-1 cells do not express detectable gastrin levels (McLaughlin *et al.*  
111 1998), an EIA kit was selected in which the antibody cross-reacts with gastrin. The  
112 coefficients of the intra- and inter-assay variations were < 5% and < 14%, respectively.

113

114 *Measurement of cytotoxicity in STC-1 cells*

115           The cytotoxic effects on STC-1 cells were determined by measuring the release  
116 of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) from the cells into the supernatant after the cells were  
117 exposed to the test agents as described above. LDH was measured using a cytotoxicity  
118 detection kit (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) according to the manufacturer's instructions.  
119 Cytotoxicity was calculated as the relative release (%) of LDH after exposure to the test  
120 agents compared to the total LDH (100%) released upon treatment with the lysis reagent  
121 supplied in the kit.

122

123 *Measurement of nonesterified FA concentration in the supernatant*

124           STC-1 cells were exposed to the test agents as described above, and the  
125 supernatants were collected every 15 min for 60 min. Nonesterified FA (NEFA)  
126 concentrations in the supernatants were measured using a NEFA-C kit (Wako Pure  
127 Chemical Corporation, Osaka, Japan) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

128

129 *RT-PCR*

130           RNA was isolated from STC-1 cells cultured in 75 cm<sup>2</sup> tissue culture flasks and  
131 from BALB/c mouse (CLEA Japan, Tokyo, Japan) tissues (duodenum, jejunum, ileum,  
132 and colon) using an RNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the  
133 manufacturer's instructions. The study was approved by the Hokkaido University Animal  
134 Committee, and the animals were maintained following the guidelines for the care and  
135 use of laboratory animals of Hokkaido University. cDNA was prepared from 1 µg RNA  
136 using ReverTra Ace® qPCR RT Master Mix with gDNA Remover (TOYOBO, Osaka,

137 Japan) and subjected to PCR using primers based on the mouse CB1 mRNA sequence  
138 (GenBank accession number NM001355020; forward primer 5'-  
139 CCACCTTCCGTACCATCACC-3', reverse primer 5'-  
140 AACCAACGGGGAGTTGTCTC-3') and the mouse glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate  
141 dehydrogenase (GAPDH) mRNA sequence (GenBank accession number NM008084;  
142 forward primer 5'-TCACCACCATGGAGAAGGC-3', reverse primer 5'-  
143 GCTAAGCAGTTGGTGGTGCA-3'). PCR conditions were as follows: 95°C for 2 min,  
144 followed by 35 cycles of 95°C for 30 s, 63.3°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 30 s. PCR products  
145 were separated by 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis and visualized by Midori Green  
146 Advance DNA stain (NIPPON Genetics, Tokyo, Japan).

147

#### 148 *Statistical analyses*

149 The results are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SEM. Statistical analyses were  
150 performed using JMP Pro version 14.0.0 software (SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, USA).  
151 Statistically significant difference was determined using one-way ANOVA followed by  
152 Tukey-Kramer's test. Significant effects of lipids (2-MAG and/or FA), antagonists, and  
153 their interactions were assessed using two-way ANOVA. In all analyses,  $p < 0.05$  was  
154 considered statistically significant.

155

## 156 **Results**

### 157 *2-AG and arachidonic acid potently stimulate CCK secretion from STC-1 cells*

158 We first explored the release of CCK in response to four types of commercially  
159 available 2-MAG (i.e., 2-palmitoyl glycerol: 2-PG, 2-oleoyl glycerol: 2-OG, 2-linoleoyl  
160 glycerol: 2-LG, and 2-arachidonoyl glycerol: 2-AG). Of these, 2-AG induced a significant

161 increase in CCK secretion at doses of 100 and 200  $\mu$ M (Fig. 1a and b). The CCK secretory  
162 activity of 2-AG was as strong as that of  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid (18:3n-3), which is known to  
163 promote CCK secretion in STC-1 cells (Tanaka *et al.* 2008).

164 Next, we examined the CCK secretory activity of the FA comprising these 2-  
165 MAG (i.e., palmitic acid: 16:0, oleic acid: 18:1n-9, linoleic acid: 18:2n-6, and arachidonic  
166 acid: 20:4n-6). Among the FA, 20:4n-6 significantly increased CCK secretion at 100  $\mu$ M,  
167 with higher potency than 18:3n-3 (Fig. 1c).

168 Both 2-AG and 20:4n-6 stimulated CCK secretion in a dose-dependent manner  
169 (Fig. 1d and e). Significant increases in CCK secretion compared to vehicle treatment  
170 were observed with 2-AG at more than 50  $\mu$ M, while with 20:4n-6 at more than 100  $\mu$ M.

171 LDH release was measured to examine whether the exposed compound-induced  
172 cell lysis caused CCK release. None of the tested compounds induced LDH release,  
173 regardless of the concentration or structure (Fig. S1).

174

#### 175 *Structural specificity of 2-AG-induced CCK secretion*

176 Intracellular calcium mobilization induced by FA triggers CCK secretion in  
177 enteroendocrine cells (Hira *et al.* 2004; McLaughlin *et al.* 1998). In previous studies, 2-  
178 AG elicited a rapid increase in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration, while several structural  
179 analogs of 2-AG, such as 1-AG, were less active than 2-AG (Sugiura *et al.* 1997; Sugiura  
180 *et al.* 1996). To investigate the structure-activity relationship, we compared the effects of  
181 various structurally related compounds (i.e., 2-AG ether and 1-AG) and hydrolysates (i.e.,  
182 glycerol and 20:4n-6) with 2-AG. As shown in Fig. 2, 2-AG and 20:4n-6 significantly  
183 increased CCK secretion in STC-1 cells; however, 2-AG ether, 1-AG, and glycerol did  
184 not. None of the tested compounds caused LDH release (Fig. S2).

185

186 *Verification of the liberation of NEFA from 2-AG in STC-1 cells*

187           To examine whether 20:4n-6 was liberated from 2-AG during secretion study in  
188 STC-1 cells, we measured NEFA concentrations in the supernatant. As shown in Fig. 3,  
189 NEFA concentration did not increase in the STC-1 cell supernatant during exposure to 2-  
190 AG and the vehicle. 20:4n-6 dosed at 100  $\mu$ M resulted in a decrease in NEFA  
191 concentration by 60  $\mu$ M over time. In the absence of STC-1 cells, NEFA concentration in  
192 the solution containing 100  $\mu$ M 20:4n-6 added into the well did not decrease (data not  
193 shown), suggesting that free 20:4n-6 was taken up by the cells during the incubation.

194

195 *Involvement of CB1*

196           2-AG is known as an endogenous cannabinoid and an endogenous ligand for  
197 both cannabinoid receptors CB1 and CB2 (Ueda *et al.* 2011; Gendaszewska-Darmach *et*  
198 *al.* 2019). CB1 is expressed in mouse duodenal CCK-producing cells (Argueta *et al.* 2019;  
199 Sykaras *et al.* 2012). We detected single bands of expected DNA size (182 bp) for CB1  
200 in STC-1 cells and mouse intestinal tissues by conventional PCR (Fig. 4a).

201           We next performed a CCK secretion study in the presence of SR141716A, a CB1  
202 selective antagonist. Under treatment with SR141716A at 10 and 30 nM, 2-AG-induced  
203 CCK secretion was diminished (Fig. 4b), whereas 20:4n-6-induced CCK secretion was  
204 not affected by the treatment (Fig. 4c).

205

206 *Involvement of the FA receptor GPR120*

207           We examined the involvement of the FA receptor GPR120 (Tanaka *et al.* 2008;  
208 Ulven and Christiansen 2015) as a potential sensor for 2-AG because 20:4n-6 reportedly

209 acts on GPR120 (Mobraten *et al.* 2013; Villegas-Comonfort *et al.* 2017). Treatment with  
210 a GPR120 antagonist, AH7614, completely diminished CCK secretion induced by 18:3n-  
211 3, which is known to stimulate CCK secretion via GPR120 (Tanaka *et al.* 2008), while 2-  
212 AG-induced CCK secretion was not reduced (Fig. 5a). 20:4n-6-induced CCK secretion  
213 was partially attenuated by this treatment (Fig. 5b).

214

## 215 **Discussion**

216 Although FA induce CCK secretion in a carbon chain length-dependent manner  
217 (Feltrin *et al.* 2004; Hira *et al.* 2004; McLaughlin *et al.* 1999; McLaughlin *et al.* 1998;  
218 Sidhu *et al.* 2000), the effect of 2-MAG on CCK secretion has not been clarified. In the  
219 present study, we examined whether 2-MAG could stimulate CCK secretion in the murine  
220 CCK-producing enteroendocrine cell line, STC-1. We demonstrated that a specific 2-  
221 MAG, 2-AG, potently stimulated CCK secretion through the cannabinoid receptor CB1.

222 In the present study, we tested four commercially available 2-MAG (i.e., 2-PG,  
223 2-OG, 2-LG, and 2-AG) on their CCK-releasing activities. Of them, 2-PG, 2-OG, and 2-  
224 LG, especially 2-OG, are known agonists of GPR119 (Hansen *et al.* 2012). 2-OG  
225 stimulates the secretion of incretin hormones, GLP-1 and GIP, via GPR119 in humans,  
226 animals, and the murine enteroendocrine cell line, GLUTag (Hansen *et al.* 2011; Hansen  
227 *et al.* 2012; Okuma *et al.* 2016; Hassing *et al.* 2016). Therefore, it was possible that all  
228 these 2-MAG could stimulate CCK secretion via GPR119. However, 2-OG, 2-PG, and 2-  
229 LG did not stimulate CCK secretion in STC-1 cells (Fig. 1a and b). The concentrations  
230 of these 2-MAG in the present study were probably insufficient to activate GPR119  
231 expressed in STC-1 cells because STC-1 cells reportedly have lower expression of  
232 GPR119 than GLUTag cells (Chu *et al.* 2008). Among the 2-MAG tested, only 2-AG at

233 a dose greater than 50  $\mu$ M stimulated the CCK secretion (Fig. 1). Although 20:4n-6 also  
234 stimulated CCK secretion, it did so at a dose greater than 100  $\mu$ M, indicating that the  
235 CCK-releasing activity of 2-AG is more potent than that of 20:4n-6. Furthermore, these  
236 results suggest that 2-AG and 20:4n-6 stimulate CCK secretion via distinct mechanisms.

237         Comparison of 2-AG related compounds (2-AG ether, 1-AG, and glycerol)  
238 shown in Fig. 2 revealed that the ester bond of 2-AG and its binding to the *sn*-2 but not  
239 the *sn*-1 position in acylglycerol is essential for 2-AG-induced CCK secretion.

240         2-AG is degraded by hydrolytic enzymes such as MAGL (Dinh *et al.* 2002a;  
241 Dinh *et al.* 2002b). MAGL is expressed in the brain and intestinal epithelium and  
242 functions both in the cytosol and the cell membrane (Blankman *et al.* 2007). NEFA  
243 concentration did not increase in STC-1 cell supernatant during exposure to 2-AG (Fig.  
244 3), suggesting that 2-AG is hardly hydrolyzed on the extracellular surface of STC-1 cells.  
245 In contrast, we might have failed to detect 20:4n-6 in the supernatant because 20:4n-6  
246 liberated from 2-AG was immediately taken up into the cell. As shown in Fig. 3, free  
247 20:4n-6 added to the supernatant gradually decreased by 60  $\mu$ M during the 60 min  
248 incubation. These results demonstrate that STC-1 cells can uptake or degrade  
249 approximately 40  $\mu$ M of extracellular 20:4n-6 within 60 min. As shown in Fig. 1e, 50  $\mu$ M  
250 20:4n-6 was not sufficient to induce CCK secretion. If more than 50  $\mu$ M of 20:4n-6 was  
251 liberated from 2-AG during the secretion study, we should be able to detect an increase  
252 in NEFA in the supernatant. Additionally, a previous study reported no apparent change  
253 in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration with 20:4n-6 below 30  $\mu$ M (Sugiura *et al.* 1996). These  
254 observations support the notion that 2-AG-induced CCK secretion is independent of  
255 20:4n-6 liberated from 2-AG.

256         RT-PCR confirmed the expression of CB1 mRNA in STC-1 cells (Fig. 4a) as

257 well as in mouse tissues. CB1 is a specific receptor for endocannabinoids, such as 2-AG  
258 and anandamide (Ueda *et al.* 2011; Pacher *et al.* 2006). Our results (Fig. 4b and 5a)  
259 suggest that CB1 functions as a 2-AG sensor to release CCK in CCK-producing  
260 enteroendocrine cells because 2-AG-induced CCK secretion was effectively attenuated  
261 by the CB1 antagonist, but not by the GPR120 antagonist. In contrast, 20:4n-6-induced  
262 CCK secretion was diminished by the GPR120 antagonist (Fig. 5b), but not by the CB1  
263 antagonist (Fig. 4c). These results demonstrate that 2-AG itself stimulates CCK secretion  
264 by acting on CB1, but not through 20:4n-6 released from 2-AG. 2-AG ether and 1-AG  
265 are also known as agonists for CB1 but did not induce CCK secretion, probably because  
266 their agonistic potency for CB1 is 10- to 100-fold weaker than 2-AG (Sugiura *et al.* 1997;  
267 Sugiura *et al.* 1996; Sugiura *et al.* 1999; Hanuš *et al.* 2001).

268         Activation of CB1 is reportedly involved in the regulation of appetite  
269 enhancement, energy homeostasis, and gastrointestinal function (Izzo *et al.* 1999;  
270 Krowicki *et al.* 1999; Landi *et al.* 2002; Marzo *et al.* 2008; Pertwee 2001; Argueta and  
271 DiPatrizio 2017; DiPatrizio *et al.* 2011). A previous study demonstrated the inhibitory  
272 effect of CB1 agonist on corn oil-induced CCK secretion and CCK-mediated satiety  
273 effects in mice (Argueta *et al.* 2019). These results are mostly obtained by experiments  
274 using pharmacological agonists, such as WIN 55,212-2 and CP 55,940. However, it  
275 remains unclear whether 2-AG derived from dietary lipids stimulates CCK secretion by  
276 acting on the apical CB1 of I cells. Since both 2-AG and 20:4n-6 potently stimulated CCK  
277 secretion in the present study, TG rich in 20:4n-6 could effectively exert physiological  
278 effects, such as satiety induction and suppression of gastric emptying, by enhancing CCK  
279 secretion *in vivo*.

280         The main dietary sources of 20:4n-6 are animal foods, such as meat, poultry,

281 eggs, fish, and dairy foods (Li *et al.* 1998; Taber *et al.* 1998; Komprda *et al.* 2005; Abedi  
282 and Sahari 2014; Kawashima 2019; Tallima and El Ridi 2018). Membrane phospholipids  
283 containing dietary-derived 20:4n-6 could be used for endogenous 2-AG production by  
284 the action of phospholipase C and subsequent diacylglycerol lipase (Ueda *et al.* 2011). In  
285 addition, ingestion of meat products and egg yolks may result in the formation of 2-AG  
286 due to the action of phospholipase A<sub>1</sub> in the gastrointestinal tract and subsequent  
287 phosphatase or phospholipase C in the cells (Aoki *et al.* 2007; Ueda *et al.* 1993; Nakane  
288 *et al.* 2002). Further studies are required to verify these possibilities and demonstrate  
289 whether dietary lipid-derived or endogenous 2-AG induces physiological effects through  
290 the induction of CCK secretion and the involvement of CB1 in nutrient sensing in  
291 enteroendocrine cells *in vivo*.

292 In conclusion, by examining various 2-MAG, we identified 2-AG as a potent  
293 stimulator of CCK secretion in the murine enteroendocrine cell line, STC-1. The  
294 structure-activity relationship was clarified by comparison with 20:4n-6, 1-AG, and 2-  
295 AG ether. Furthermore, we demonstrated that CB1 mediates 2-AG-induced CCK  
296 secretion. These results reveal a novel 2-MAG-sensing mechanism in enteroendocrine  
297 cells and suggest that dietary lipid-derived 2-AG or endogenous 2-AG causes  
298 physiological effects via CCK secretion.

299

### 300 **Authorship**

301 K.O. and T.H. conceived and designed the study and wrote the first draft of the  
302 manuscript, K.O. carried out the experiments, K.O. and T.H. analyzed the data. All  
303 authors contributed to and approved the final draft of the manuscript.

304

305 **Conflict of Interest**

306 All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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## Figure legends

**Fig. 1** Secretion of CCK in response to various 2-MAG and FA. STC-1 cells cultured in 48-well plates were exposed to (a) 100  $\mu$ M, (b) 200  $\mu$ M 2-MAG, and 200  $\mu$ M 18:3n-3, (c) various FA, various concentrations of (d) 2-AG, or (e) 20:4n-6 for 60 min at 37°C. Values are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=3). Values not sharing a common letter are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ , Tukey's test). 2-PG, 2-palmitoyl glycerol; 2-OG, 2-oleoyl glycerol; 2-LG, 2-linoleoyl glycerol; 2-AG, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol; 18:3n-3,  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid; 16:0, palmitic acid; 18:1n-9, oleic acid; 18:2n-6, linoleic acid; 20:4n-6, arachidonic acid

**Fig. 2** Effect of compounds structurally related to 2-AG on CCK secretory activity. STC-1 cells cultured in 48-well plates were exposed to 100  $\mu$ M 2-AG, structurally related compounds (i.e., 2-AG ether and 1-AG), glycerol, and 20:4n-6. Values are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=3). Values not sharing a common letter are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ , Tukey's test). 2-AG, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol; 2-AG ether, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol ether; 1-AG, 1-arachidonoyl glycerol; 20:4n-6: arachidonic acid

**Fig.3** Changes in NEFA concentrations in supernatant during the secretion study in STC-1 cells. STC-1 cells cultured in 48-well plates were exposed to 2-AG (100  $\mu$ M) or 20:4n-6 (100  $\mu$ M) at 37°C. The supernatants were collected every 15 min until 60 min. The concentration of NEFA in the supernatants was measured. Values are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=3). 2-AG, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol; 20:4n-6, arachidonic acid

**Fig. 4** Expression of CB1 in STC-1 cells and mouse intestine, and effects of CB1

antagonist on CCK secretion induced by 2-AG and 20:4n-6. (a) Total RNA was extracted from STC-1 cells and mouse intestine (duodenum, jejunum, ileum, and colon) and then subjected to RT-PCR with specific CB1 or GAPDH primers. PCR products were separated in agarose gel and visualized by Midori Green Advance DNA stain. STC-1 cells cultured in 48-well plates were exposed to (b) 2-AG (100  $\mu$ M) or (c) 20:4n-6 (100  $\mu$ M) in the presence of a CB1 antagonist (SR141716A) for 60 min at 37°C. Values are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=3). Values not sharing a common letter are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ , Tukey's test). P values of two-way ANOVA for lipid (2-AG or 20:4n-6), antagonist (SR141716A), and their interactions are shown in the panels. 2-AG, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol; 20:4n-6, arachidonic acid

**Fig. 5** Effects of GPR120 antagonist on CCK secretion induced by 2-AG and 20:4n-6. STC-1 cells cultured in 48-well plates were exposed to (a) 2-AG (100  $\mu$ M) or (b) 20:4n-6 (100  $\mu$ M) in the presence of a GPR120 antagonist (AH7614) for 60 min at 37°C. Values are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=3). Values not sharing a common letter are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ , Tukey's test). P values of two-way ANOVA for lipids (18:3n-3 and 2-AG, or 20:4n-6), antagonist (AH7614), and their interactions are shown in the panels. 18:3n-3,  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid; 2-AG, 2-arachidonoyl glycerol; 20:4n-6, arachidonic acid

# Fig. 1

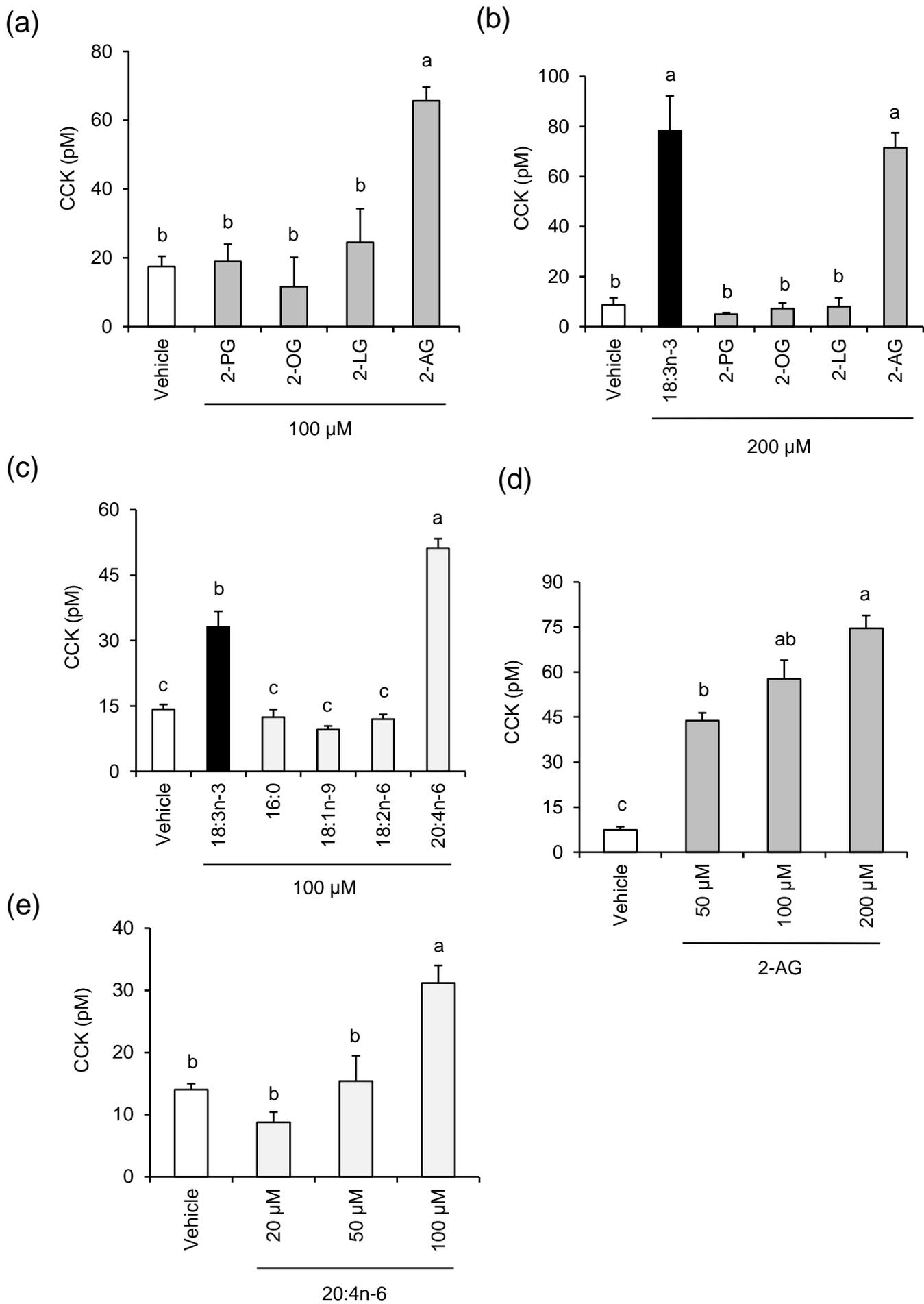


Fig. 2

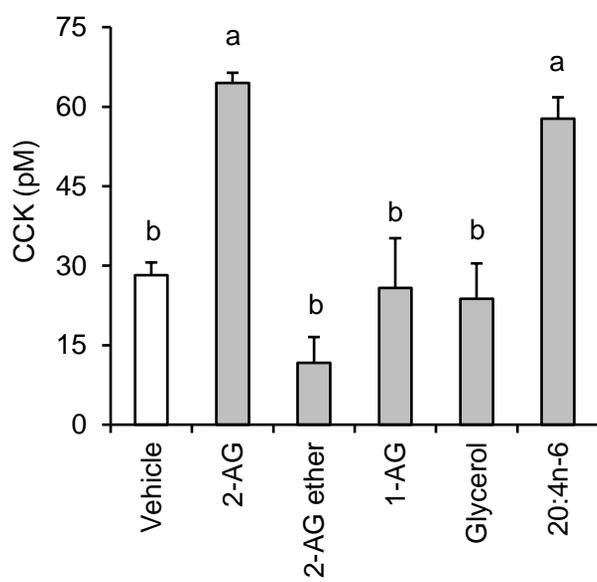
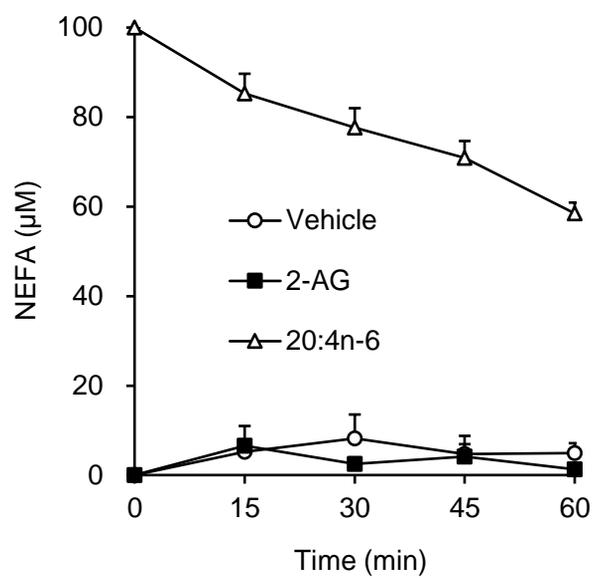
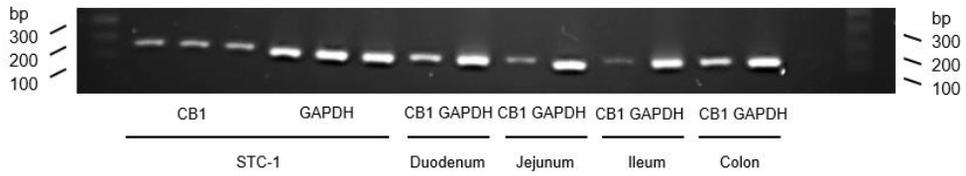


Fig. 3

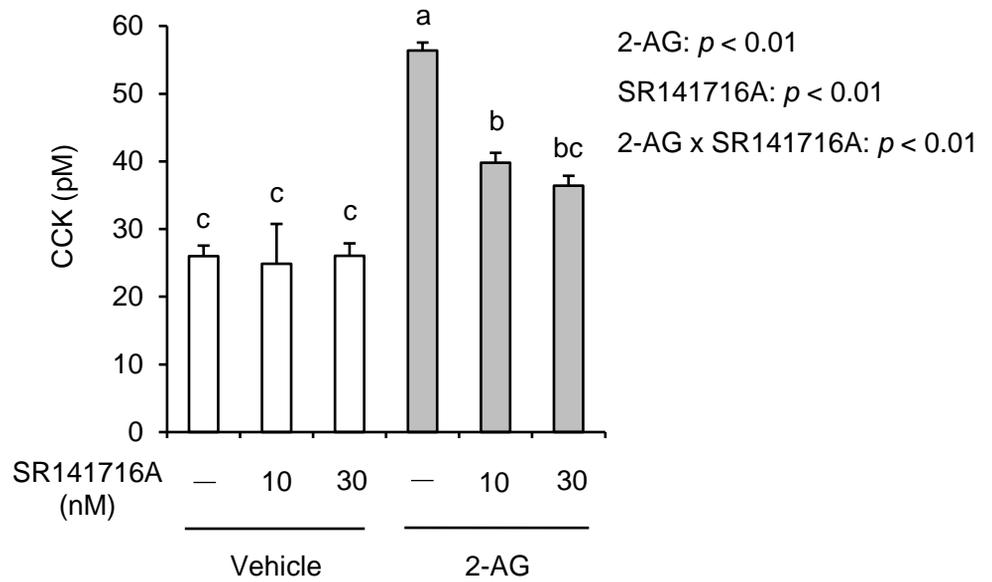


# Fig. 4

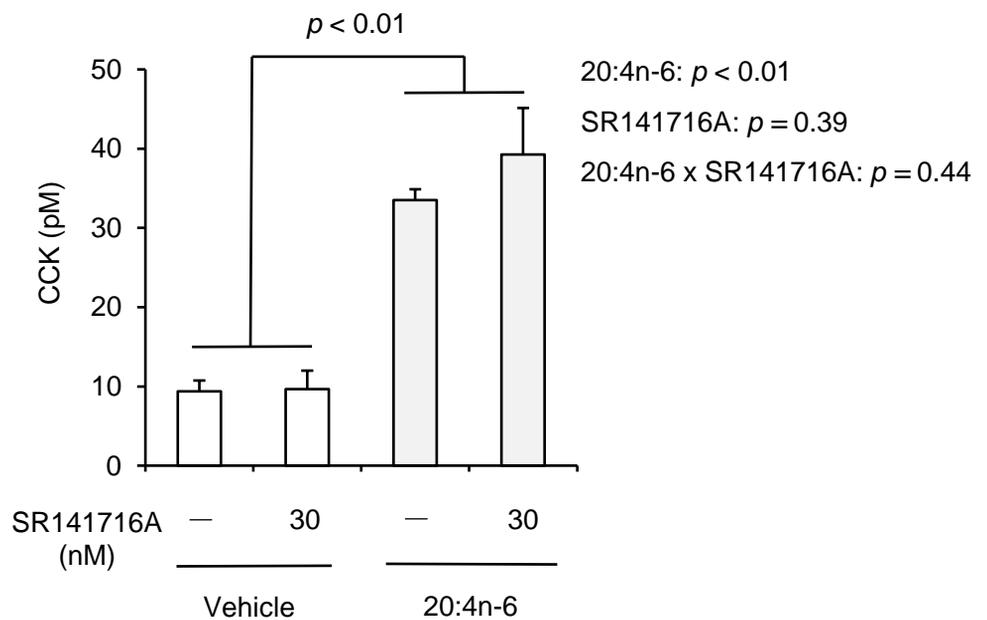
(a)



(b)

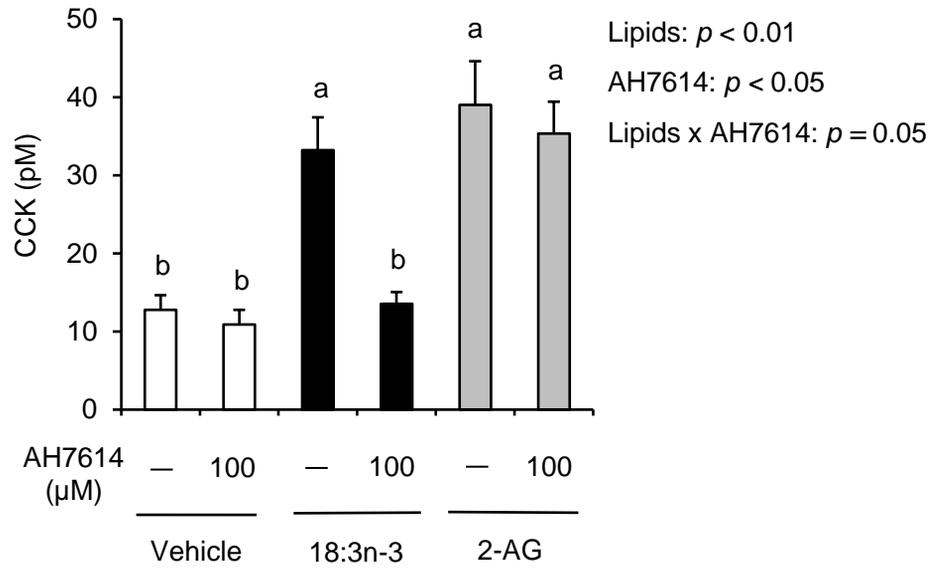


(c)

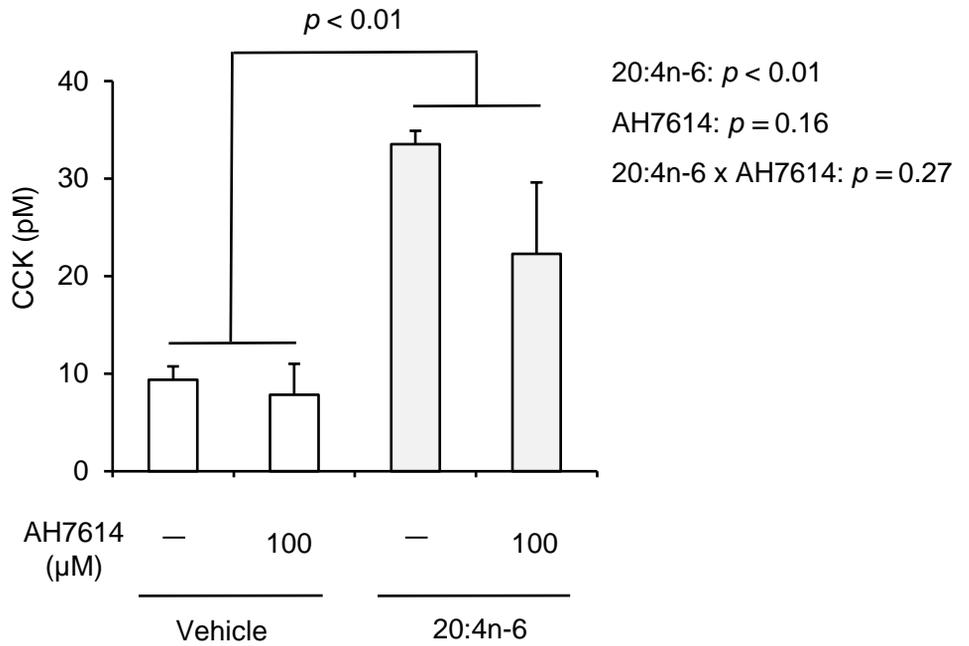


# Fig. 5

(a)



(b)



## **Title**

2-arachidonoyl glycerol potently induces cholecystinin secretion in murine enteroendocrine STC-1 cells via cannabinoid receptor CB1

## **Journal**

Lipids

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